



## -OS Assessment-

### Oxford High School Shooting Leaves 4 Dead 7 Injured

VFC Shield Members,

Shortly after noon on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, a student at Oxford High School, located in Oxford MI, opened fire leaving four students dead and seven injured.

Please review this assessment which not only give further details into the incident, but provides meaningful information to better inform our members in hopes of averting additional tragic acts of violence.



### **Oxford High School Shooting Leaves 4 Dead, 7 Injured**

Date of Incident - November 30, 2021

#### **Summary Statement**

Shortly after noon on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, a student opened fire at the Oxford High School located 30 miles from Detroit, Michigan, leaving four students dead and seven others injured.



### Attack Overview

Around 12:52 pm local time, a student was seen entering a bathroom. The student emerged from the bathroom with a firearm and began to fire. The shooting occurred during the passing time between classes when hundreds of students were in the hallway transitioning from one classroom to another.

According to reports, the shooter was able to walk a short distance to enter the main hallway where students and staff had already entered classrooms, locked doors, erected makeshift barricades and locked down in accordance with their training. The suspect was reportedly not able to gain access to a classroom. At least 30 shots were fired striking 11 people. The suspect did not resist officers when they arrived and surrendered to them. When taken into custody the suspect was in a possession of a handgun and 18 additional rounds of ammunition. Open-source reports indicated his father purchased the handgun on November 26, 2021.

### Victims

In the shooting aftermath, four students, a 14-year-old female, a 16-year-old male, a 17-year-old male, and a 17-year-old female, were killed. The seven injured included a teacher and six students.

The injured students have been identified as

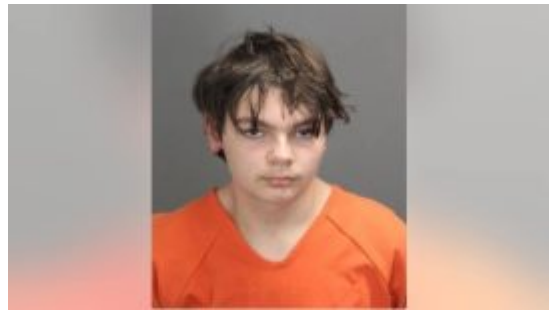
- A 17-year-old female was in critical condition with gunshot wounds to the chest
- A 14-year-old female was in critical condition with gunshot wounds to the chest and neck
- A 17-year-old male was in stable condition with gunshot wounds to the hip
- A 14-year-old male was in serious condition with gunshot wounds to the jaw and hand
- A 17-year-old female was in stable condition with gunshot wounds to the neck
- A 15-year-old male was in stable condition with gunshot wounds to the leg

The teacher, a 47-year-old female, was treated and released for gunshot wounds to her shoulder.

## **Suspect**

The suspect has been identified as 15-year-old Eric Crumbley.

Media reports indicated that school officials had been concerned about Crumbley's behavior the day before the shooting when a teacher observed Crumbley searching for ammunition on his cellphone during class.



The morning of the shooting, a second teacher found a note on Crumbley's desk that read, "The thoughts won't stop. Help me." The note also included a drawing of a bullet and the words "Blood everywhere," along with a person who appeared to have been shot and bleeding, and the words, "my life is useless" and "the world is dead." School officials then met with Crumbley, and his parents around 10am, approximately 2 hours before the shooting, to discuss their concerns and review the note. The Crumbleys were instructed to make arrangements to have their son attend a counseling session within 24 hours. There was no mention of whether or not Crumbley had the gun or if it was in his backpack during the meeting. Crumbley's parents resisted the idea of taking their son home that day. Instead, the teen returned to class, and the shooting subsequently occurred.

In a written statement released Saturday, Oxford Community Schools Superintendent Tim Throne, reported that in the initial meeting with a counselor and a staff member, Crumbley claimed shooting sports were a hobby for his family. During the second meeting with guidance counselors, Crumbley claimed the drawings were part of a video game design and stated he wanted to pursue a career in that field. According to guidance counselors, Crumbley was calm and worked on homework while staff tried to reach his parents, and they traveled to the school. Throne also stated the parents did not inform the counselors that they had recently purchased a gun. Throne further stated "When the parents were asked to take their son home for the day, they flatly refused and left without their son."

Law enforcement officials have obtained two videos from Crumbley's phone made the night before in which he talked about shooting and killing students at the high school. A journal located inside Crumbley's backpack revealed his desire to use a firearm to kill classmates, which officials also obtained. Authorities stated that an Instagram account possibly belonging to Crumbley displayed an image of the suspected firearm used during the shooting. Social media posts also indicated that Crumbley accompanied his father for the gun purchase on November 26, 2021, and then posted photos of the firearm, saying, "Just got my new beauty today." Social media posts from Crumbley's mother indicate that the gun may have been purchased as a gift for her son.

On December 1, 2021, Crumbley (who was charged as an adult) pleaded not guilty to one count of terrorism causing death, four counts of first-degree murder, seven counts of assault with intent to murder, and 12 counts of possessing a firearm in the commission of a crime.

## **Parents Charged**

James, and Jennifer Crumbley, were each charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter on Friday, December 3, 2021.

The Crumbley's were expected to be arraigned at 4 p.m. the same day but stopped communicating with their attorney and never appeared for their scheduled arraignment. On the morning of the arraignment, the couple took out \$4,000.00 from an ATM not far from the courthouse where they were supposed to appear that afternoon. According to Oakland County Undersheriff Michael

McCabe, later that same night, a Detroit business owner "spotted a car tied to the Crumbleys in his parking lot" McCabe also stated that a woman seen near the vehicle ran away when the business owner called 911. The couple was later located and arrested by Detroit police.



## Assessment/Application

- **Pre-Attack Indicators and the FBI Study**

According to a nationwide study conducted by the FBI on [pre-attack indicators for active shooter from 2000 - 2013](#), there is no single warning sign, checklist, or algorithm for assessing behaviors that identify a prospective active shooter. Rather, there appears to be a complex combination of behaviors and interactions with bystanders that may often occur in the days, weeks, and months leading up to an attack. Early recognition and reporting of concerning behaviors to law enforcement or threat assessment professionals may initiate important opportunities for mitigation

- **Findings**

This study found that **at least one person noticed a concerning behavior in every active shooter's life**, and on average, people from three different groups noticed concerning behaviors for each active shooter.

If the person recognizes behaviors as problematic but takes no action, the opportunity for intervention is missed. Whether and how a person responds to an active shooter's concerning behavior is likely influenced by a host of personal and situational factors (e.g., whether the behavior is threatening to the observer or others, the relationship of the observer and active shooter, avenues for anonymous reporting, and/or confidence in authorities or others to address the behavior).

In this study, even in cases where an active shooter displayed a variety of concerning behaviors that might indicate an intent to act violently, the observer(s) of that information did not necessarily pass it along to anyone else. As shown above, the people most likely to notice concerning behaviors were those who knew the active shooter best — family, friends and classmates. For the very reason they are the people most likely to take note of concerning behaviors, they are also people who may feel constrained from acting on these concerns because of loyalty, disbelief, and/or fear of the consequences.

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# A STUDY OF THE PRE-ATTACK BEHAVIORS OF ACTIVE SHOOTERS IN THE UNITED STATES *BETWEEN 2000 AND 2013*

## QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE – FBI BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS UNIT (BAU)

### REMINDERS

- There is no one “profile” of an active shooter.
- There is no single warning sign, checklist, or algorithm for assessing behaviors that identifies a prospective active shooter.
- While impossible to predict violent behavior, it is possible to prevent some attacks via effective threat assessment and management strategies.

### ACTIVE SHOOTER DEMOGRAPHICS

The **63** active shooters in the sample did not appear to be readily identifiable prior to the attack *based on demographics alone*.

The youngest active shooter was 12 yoa and the oldest was 88 yoa with an average age of **37.8** years.

**94%** were male and only **6%** were female.

Among active shooters age 18 and older, **44%** were employed and **38%** were unemployed.

**24%** had at least some military experience.

**57%** were single at the time of the offense.

**13%** were married; **13%** were divorced; **11%** were partnered but not married; **6%** were separated.

**35%** had adult criminal convictions prior to the event.

**62%** had a history of acting in an abusive, harassing or oppressive way (e.g., bullying).

**16%** had engaged in intimate partner violence.

**11%** had engaged in stalking-related conduct.

### PLANNING AND PREPARATION

**73%** of active shooters had a known connection with the attack site.

**35%** of active shooters age 18 and older targeted their workplace or former workplace.

**88%** of active shooters age 17 and younger targeted their school or former school.

Active shooters with no known connection to the site were more likely to conduct pre-attack site surveillance as compared to those with a connection to the targeted site.

**21%** of active shooters researched or studied past attacks by others.

In cases where the amount of time spent *planning* could be determined (n=34), **77%** (n=26) of the active shooters spent a week or longer planning their attack.

In cases where the amount of time spent *preparing* could be determined (n=46), **46%** (n=21) of the active shooters spent a week or longer preparing (procuring the means) for the attack.

In the four cases where active shooters took less than 24 hours to plan and prepare, all had at least one concerning behavior and three had an identifiable grievance.

### FIREARMS ACQUISITION

**40%** of active shooters purchased a firearm legally and specifically for the purpose of the attack.

**35%** of active shooters already possessed a firearm and did not obtain it for the express purpose of the attack.

**11%** of active shooters borrowed or took a firearm from a person known to them.

**6%** of active shooters stole a firearm.

**2%** of active shooters purchased a firearm illegally.

### STRESSORS

Active shooters experienced multiple stressors (with an average of **3.6** separate stressors) in the year prior to the attack. The stressors reported included:

**62%** Mental health

**49%** Financial strain

**35%** Job-related stressors

**29%** Conflict with friends/peers

**27%** Marital problems

**22%** Abuse of illicit drugs/alcohol

**22%** Other (e.g., caregiving responsibilities)

**22%** Conflict at school

**21%** Physical injury

**18%** Conflict with parents

**16%** Conflict with other family members

**13%** Sexual stress/frustration

**11%** Criminal problems

**10%** Civil problems

**6%** Death of friend/relative

**2%** No stressors

### MENTAL HEALTH

**25%** of active shooters had a diagnosed mental illness prior to the offense.

Of the 25% (n=16), **12** had a mood disorder, **4** had an anxiety disorder, **3** had a psychotic disorder, and **2** had a personality disorder. One active shooter was diagnosed with Autism spectrum disorder, one with a developmental disorder, and one described as “other.”

It could not be determined if a diagnosis had been given in **37%** (n=23) of the cases in this study.

### SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

All active shooters either: a) lived with someone or b) had significant in-person or online social interactions.

**68%** of all active shooters lived with someone else.

• **64%** of active shooters 18 yoa or older lived with someone else.

**86%** of active shooters had significant in-person social interactions with at least one person in the year prior to the attack.

**27%** of active shooters had significant online interactions with another person within a year of the attack.

For this study, the FBI used data that has been verified to the greatest possible extent, relying almost exclusively on information contained in official law enforcement investigative files. Active shooting events which appeared to be spontaneous reactions to situational factors were excluded. The final sample of 63 active shooting incidents was included in this study.

## TAKEAWAY

**While there is no "profile" for an school shooter, there are indicators that should merit intervention into a troubled youths life.**

**\*\*Speak with your children to educate them the importance of suspicious activity reporting and the pathway to violence\*\***

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## - Tools and Resources -



Video Resource | CISA

### **Pathway to Violence**

The "Pathway to Violence" video provides information regarding the behavior indicators that assailants often demonstrate before a violent act. Behavior experts reference research conducted by Frederick Calhoun and Steve Weston's on threat management and further describes the six progressive steps that may be observable by colleagues. The video also includes law enforcement expert interviews that discuss engagement strategies and recommended responses to someone potentially on a pathway to violence.

[View Resource](#)



Video Resource | FBI

### **Echos of Columbine**

An excellent documentary explores the issue of school shootings and what schools, parents, and law enforcement can do to help prevent these attacks.

[View Resource](#)

## SOURCES:

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